

University of Groningen

Beyond barriers

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Stellingen
behorend bij het proefschrift

Beyond barriers: Complexity, accuracy, and fluency in long-term L2 speakers' speech

1. Oral history testimonies contain highly naturalistic second language (L2) speech, enabling us to capture our interviewees' everyday-life linguistic skills which they should be most proficient in, similarly to any native speaker. (dit proefschrift)
2. The use of the native speaker as a benchmark against whom the L2 speakers' language knowledge is assessed is a highly questionable procedure given our interviewees' unique experiences during the course of emigration and the potential traumata from which they might have suffered. (dit proefschrift)
3. Age of onset is a primary predictor of foreign accent. (dit proefschrift)
4. Our interviewees are susceptible to an age-related cognitive decline for the domain of fluency in (second) language production just like any first or second language speaker would be. (dit proefschrift)
5. There is more to grammatical complexity than capturing text length and subordination. (dit proefschrift)
6. High levels of L2 proficiency in the morphosyntactic and lexical domain are attainable across all ages of onset but seem to be affected by obtained level of education. (dit proefschrift)
7. "A language is something infinitely greater than grammar and philology. It is the poetic testament of the genius of a race and a culture, and the living embodiment of the thoughts and fancies that have moulded them" (Jawaharlal Nehru)
8. "If the standard of speaking a language is to know every word – to feel at home debating nuclear fusion and classical music – then hardly anyone is fluent in their own native tongues." (Timothy Doner)
9. "Normal aging is an inevitable race between increasing knowledge and decreasing cognitive capacity." (Baum & Titone, 2014, p. 857)
10. "The modern conference resembles the pilgrimage of medieval Christendom in that it allows the participants to indulge themselves in all the pleasures and diversions of travel while appearing to be austere bent on self-improvement ... and returning home with an enhanced reputation for seriousness of mind." (David Lodge, 1995, p. 213).
11. "Er gaat niets boven Groningen" (Marketing Groningen).